

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /097 W

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O 012038Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8958

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

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SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) AND PUERTO RICO: STATE

OF PLAY

REF: A. STATE 214413 (NOTAL) B. USUN 3428 (NOTAL)

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1 NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERMREP VRAALSEN AND MISOFF BERGH JOHANSEN MET WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, PUERTO RICAN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AND MISOFF AT VRAALSEN'S REQUEST. VRAALSEN SAID THAT HE SEES THREE POSSIBLE OPTIONS ON PUERTO RICO: POSTPONEMENT (FOLLOWING THE USUAL DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO), A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE 1973 C-24 RES ON PUERTO RICO, OR A RES REFERRING THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE REITERATED THAT CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON TOLD HIM HE WOULD NOT BROOK POSTPONEMENT.

2. WHILE STATING HIS OWN PREFERENCE FOR POSTPONEMENT AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO INTRODUCE A MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT, VRAALSEN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PUSHING FOR POSTPONEMENT MIGHT BE DYSFUNCTIONAL IF WE WERE NOT SURE WE COULD WIN. VRAALSEN SAID HE SAW SOME DANGER OF A CUBAN COUNTER MOVE FOR GA CONSIDERATION IF WE PUSH POSTPONEMENT. IN A LATER CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, VRAALSEN SAID HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THE C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM BELIEVES THAT THE C-24 WILL ADOPT SOME RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO. GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID HE THOUGHT WE COULD WIN ON POSTPONEMENT AND THAT IT WAS OUR PREFERRED OUTCOME. HE STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF KEEPING THE ISSUE OUT OF THE GA. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH VRAALSEN THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ALONG LINES OF REF A.

3. VRAALSEN SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF C-24 MEMBERS TODAY AND WILL GET BACK TO US WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETINGS. HE RECOMMENDED AGAIN THAT WE NOT UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER LOBBYING ON PUERTO RICO FOR THE MOMENT.

4. AUSTRALIAN MISOFF FORRESTER INFORMED US ON SEPTEMBER 1 THAT THE CUBANS HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING OF THE CO-SPONSORS OF LAST YEAR'S C-24 RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO (CUBA, CONGO, IRAQ, MALI, SYRIA) FOR SEPTEMBER 2.
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FORRESTER SAID THAT SYRIAN MISOFF AL-HUSSAMY TOLD HIM THAT THE CUBANS ARE "ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED" TO ADJOURNMENT, WANT A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO BUT REALIZE THEY CAN'T GET MUCH OF A RESOLUTION. AL-HUSSAMY TOLD FORRESTER THAT MOST OF THE CO-SPONSORS WON'T TOUCH LAST YEAR'S C-24 RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO. HE ASKED FORRESTER HOW THE US WOULD REACT TO A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE COLOMBO DECLARATION LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO; FORRESTER

TOLD HIM WE WOULD "GO BESERK".

5. FORRESTER REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT OF A MINIMAL RES ON PUERTO RICO. HE SAID THAT IF THERE IS A MINIMAL RES, THEN AUSTRALIA WOULD CONSIDER BIDDING IN WITH EVEN Milder LANGUAGE. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE CUBANS APPEAR PREPARED, ACCORDING TO AL-HUSSAMY, TO ADOPT FAIRLY MILD LANGUAGE.

6. FORRESTER ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE DRAFT AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO (REF B). MISOFF REPLIED THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE GOA TO SAY WHATEVER IT WANTED TO BUT EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE STATEMENT: A SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT WOULD IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZE THE COMMITTEE'S COMPETENCE TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO; AN AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT MIGHT INVITE RESPONSES FROM THE CUBANS ET AL WHICH COULD INCREASE THE SUBSTANTIVE CHARACTER OF THE DEBATE; AND A SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE MIGHT PREJUDICE POSTPONEMENT. FORRESTER AGREED AND SAID THAT HIS PRESENT PREDILECTION-- IN LIGHT OF THE FAVORABLE VOTE ESTIMATE FOR POSTPONEMENT -- IS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING.

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